

SECRET

19 September 1951

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Visit to Coast Guard

1. In pursuance of General Smith's instructions I called today on Admiral O'Neil, Commandant of the Coast Guard, to pay him General Smith's respects and to convey the latter's appreciation of the Coast Guard's work in connection with the planning for internal security. I also informed Admiral O'Neil of the desire of General Smith to assist the Coast Guard in intelligence either through the resources of the CIA or those available in the IAC community.

2. Admiral O'Neil indicated that he greatly appreciated General Smith's comment and he reciprocated in the desire to work cooperatively.

3. I informed Admiral O'Neil that I had come directly from Captain Eastman, Head of the Intelligence Division, with whom I had canvassed the matter of CIA assistance to the Coast Guard.

4. Captain Eastman had informed me that relations with CGC had been most satisfactory and that as far as he could see CIA had met its commitments to the Coast Guard, although he recognized that there probably was not much information available of the kind that they had been seeking. He launched into a discussion of the problem of how to ascertain whether ships reaching American ports carried weapons which could be used against the United States. We examined the types of information which would indicate such cargo. He recognized that knowledge of ship movements would not provide the clue nor did he feel that a guarantee of the manifest by the ship's master or the U. S. Consul could be relied upon if conspiracy were really intended. In this connection he referred to a letter the Coast Guard had sent to the State Department proposing that an assurance of this sort be sought from the ship's master and the U. S. Consul at the last port of call prior to entry in the United States, although he doubted that this would, in fact, have much practicable effect except possibly to identify the ship's master for later penalty in the event of some untoward incident.

5. I left Captain Eastman with the understanding that we, at any time, would be glad to discuss specific intelligence targets with him and work out the most practicable way of meeting them in the intelligence community.

JAMES Q. REHER

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